

**Microscopy Society of Southern  
Africa  
Mikroskopievereniging van  
Suidelike Afrika**

FIRST CIRCULAR



**44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**5 – 7 December 2005**  
**UNIVERSITY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL**

**Conference Address and Enquiries**

**Conference Secretary**

Mrs Pat Joubert, MSSA 2005  
c/o Centre for Electron Microscopy  
University of Kwa-Zulu Natal  
Private Bag X01, Scottsville 3209  
Email: joubertps@ukzn.ac.za  
Tel: (033) 2605155, Fax: (033) 260 5776

On behalf of the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa and the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, we have the pleasure of inviting you to attend the 44th Annual Conference of MSSA

which is being hosted by the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg. We do hope that you will be able to attend. *Please note the change in format of the conference being held from Monday to Wednesday followed by the post conference workshops.*

**Dates**

MSSA 2005 Conference:  
Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005.  
Opening Reception on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December  
MSSA Post-Conference Workshops: 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
December 2005.

**Venue**

The conference will be held in the Commerce Building in Golf road of the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal - Pietermaritzburg campus.

**Accommodation and Meals**

Accommodation has been booked for conference delegates at the University Dennison Residence. This residence is within walking distance of the conference venue

Accommodation rates per person per night are R200 bed and breakfast.

Lunches will be available at the conference venue and will be included in the conference fee. Tea and coffee will be served to delegates at appropriate times in the foyer of the Commerce Building .

For those not wishing to take advantage of University accommodation, Pietermaritzburg hosts a variety of guest houses and hotels in close proximity to the University Campus. A list of local B&B 's will be provided, anybody wishing to make a booking for private accommodation is requested to organize their own accommodation.

**Scientific Programme**

As in previous years, we will follow the format of parallel sessions, these being Medical and Zoological Sciences, Microbiological and Botanical

Sciences, Physical Sciences and the Technical Forum.

Each paper will be allocated a total of 20 minutes (15 minutes presentation plus 5 minutes discussion). All lecture rooms will have overhead and data projectors. (More details concerning data projectors will be provided in later circulars).

Should anyone have any additional equipment requirements, please contact the Convenor as early as possible.

**Poster Sessions**

Poster sessions will form an integral part of the conference. Posters will be displayed in prominent locations for the duration of the congress.

Formally chaired poster sessions at which authors will be able to present their work will be scheduled into the programme. Each presentation will be of 10 minutes duration. The presenters are thus requested to be at the posters during the allotted time period.

Posters should be of standard size, which is **1.2m in height by 1.2m in width.**

**Post-Conference Workshops and Seminars**

Details will be provided in the second circular.

**Social Programme**

4th December – “Ice Breaker Indian Evening”.

5th December – Function with a difference.

6<sup>th</sup> December – Free evening and student outing

7<sup>th</sup> December – Conference Dinner and Prize-Giving.

**Trade presentations and exhibitions**

An important aspect of the conference will be the trade exhibition, which provides the trade organizations with the opportunity to display the latest products related to any form of microscopy, including sample preparation, latest developments in microanalysis, books, etc. The event also provides a platform for the manufacturers and suppliers to

develop important contacts with the end users, and vice versa. Companies and microscopy units are invited to participate in the exhibitions, for which abundant space is available in the conference venue.

The costs for the use of exhibition space are:

**Stands:** 3m x 3m display areas R5000, 'Table stands' at R2500 for the three days will also be available

Any interested companies or other parties are requested to contact the organisers ASAP.

## Second Circular

Please complete the MSSA 2005 reply form by 31 May 2005 in order to receive the second circular.

The second circular will include more information on the conference, such as registration fees, as well as the official conference and accommodation registration form. This will be sent out during July or August 2005. Some prospective delegates may require official letters of invitation to attend the conference. Those who require these are requested to tick the appropriate box on the MSSA 2005 reply form attached to the circular. NOTE that this letter does NOT imply an offer of financial support.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Return of first circular reply form	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2005
Submission of proceedings abstracts	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2005
Second Circular	August 2005
Submission of abstracts to the	
Technical Forum	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2005
Final Circular	October 2005
Final registration date and payment	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2005

## Student Grants

Please note that there will once again be a special programme of student events. There are a number

of grants available for students to attend the conference. Candidates should apply directly to Alan Hall as soon as they know that their abstracts have been accepted (probably early September). Alan's address is:

Mr Alan Hall  
E.M. Unit, Faculty of Science,  
University of Pretoria, PRETORIA 0002  
Tel: (012) 420 2075 Fax: (012) 420 3266  
Email: [ahall@nsnper1.up.ac.za](mailto:ahall@nsnper1.up.ac.za)

## Prizes

A number of prizes will be awarded for papers and posters presented at the conference. Delegates, particularly students, are strongly encouraged to participate in the competitions. The prizes will be awarded at the conference dinner.

**PLEASE NOTE**, in most cases, an initial filtering process of possible candidates for prizes will take place on **THE QUALITY AND CONTENT OF SUBMITTED CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS**.

The prizes are as follows:

**THE FEI PRIZE** of R1000 offered to author(s) of a **paper on any aspect of electron microscopy that was published in a recognized international journal during the 12 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003**. Candidates need not be members of the Society, but must be resident in Southern Africa. Three reprints and a letter of application, including permanent home address, should be sent to:  
Mr Alan Hall,  
*Postal address provided above*  
e-mail: [ahall@nsnper1.up.ac.za](mailto:ahall@nsnper1.up.ac.za)  
**DEADLINE:** 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005

**THE ANASPEC PRIZE** of R1000 will be awarded for the best A4 to A3 sized poster, describing in basic terms how microscopy was used **to resolve a specific problem for a client from industry**. The format should include the identity and specific needs of the client. A short description of the

method used to identify and view the sample should be given. The resulting conclusions and recommendations to the client should also be clearly stated. The emphasis should be on resolving the problem and not just on identifying it. The aim is to encourage students and EM users to assist industry in a format that industry requires, eg., have problem, study problem until point of description of problem, and resolve problem.

**THE SET POINT TECHNOLOGIES AWARD** of R1000 for the **best innovative technique in electron microscopy and/or on the novel use in SA of an established technique** presented as a paper at the conference.

**THE WIRSAM LIGHT MICROSCOPY PRIZE** of an Olympus camera for the **best light microscopy oral or poster presentation**.

**THE WIRSAM TESCANA PRIZE** for R500 for the **most exceptional presentation** at the conference.

**WIRSAM SCIENTIFIC** will award a prize of R500 for the **best paper presented by a student author** in each of the major sections of the conference programme, i.e., in the Life and Physical Sciences. Both light and electron microscopy will be considered. **Candidates will be short-listed by the editors from the abstracts submitted for the Proceedings and their presentation will be judged during the normal course of the programme**. To qualify for these prizes, students must not be in full-time salaried employment.

**THE MARY VEENSTRA PRIZE** of R200 will be awarded for the **best poster presentation** on any form of microscopy presented at the conference.

**THE FIONA GRAHAM PRIZE** is awarded to students who submit a first-time-accepted-no changes-required abstract for the conference.